THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) In order to increase exports of Textiles from India, the Government is providing requisite policy frame work to Indian Exporters under various schemes in accordance with export-import policy and consistant with international obligations including advance licensing of fabric and other requirements, setting up of Export Oriented Units (EOUs), foreign collaborations in manufacturing etc. for participaion in Heimtextile fair to be held in January, 98, Government has taken a number of steps which include setting up of a Theme Pavilion on Textiles, Multi-media presentation securing additional space in the fair, publicity and advertisements and overall co-ordinated approach to ensure effective India's participation.

Central Scheme/Projects/Programmes for Development of Sericulture

136. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of different central scheme/projects/programmes launched by Government during the preceding five years in different States for development of sericulture; and

(b) what are the new schemes etc. that are schedued to be launched in the IX plan period?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of all the four types of silk. These include schemes for extension of R&D, training, infrastructural & extension support to the sector through network of CSB's units & implementaion of certain developmental/ incentives/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericultural practices for production of quality silk. Besides, the Central Silk Board has also taken up sericultural Projects like World Bank assisted National Sericulture Project (covering 17 States), Action Plan for seven States of North Eastern region etc. in association/ collaboration with the States.

(b) The schemes sanctioned till date for implementation in the IX plan period are as under:—

1. Promotion of Resource Conservation Technology through Economic Oven

2. Enterprise Development Programme

3. Master Reeler Assistance to States

4. On-farm training and supply of start-up tools to new sericulturists (Mulberry)

5. Augmentation of Muga Food Plants

6. Support to Reeling Units

7. Crop Insurance Support (Mulberry)

8. By-Product use Development projects (General)

9. Support for product development, diversification and Buyer awareness programme

10. Installation of common facility centres for handloom silk processing

11. Demonstration of backward integration in the reeling sector

12. Subsidy for providing drip irrigation facility for mulberry plantation

13. Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of a demonstrative kind adopted by states

14. Creation of improved mulberry variety banks in states

15. Crop Insurance support (Tasar)

16. Support for date base development

17. Support for consultancies, studies and surveys

18. Support to agencies (Co-operatives/ NGOs) for the popularisation of improved spinning devices for Eri

19. Support for preparation of extension/publicity materials in local languages

20. Creation of growth centres for production of quality silk

21. Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-operatives societies) for upgradation and popularisation of improved reeling/spinning devices for tropical tasar

22. Support for equipment upgradation of exsisting State/Parastatal/Cooperative infrastructure in seed and reeling in non-traditional states (Mulberry)

23. Pilot scheme for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed

24. Providing training and start-up tools to farmers to practice muga culture

25. Support to states for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure for Eri

26. Demonstration of systematic plantation in Eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools

27. Scheme for increasing quality raw silk

Transfer of sick NTC Mills to State Governments

137. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have offered sick National Textile Corporation (NTC) mills to the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal made to the State Governments and the reaction/response of the State Governments thereto;

(c) what is the financial and operational implication of the proposal;

(d) what is Government's policy in regard to sick Textiles Mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) An offer to take over sick textile mills at a nominal cost or even free of cost was made to the respective State Governments provided the State Governments were willing to accept the responsibility of running the viable mills and protecting the interest of the workers. Offer was also made that the Central Govt. would write-off/waive the loans given by the Govt. of India/NTC (HC) to these mills and interest thereon as well as the amount of VRS paid to the workers who had accepted voluntary retirement. In addition, the Govt. of India would be willing to discharge the liabilities towards arrears of statutory dues of the workers. The Government of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have declined the offer. No concrete response has been received from the other State Governments to whom the offer was made.

(c) Since a positive response has not been received from any of the State Governments to whom the offer was made, the financial and operational implication has not been worked out.

(d) It has been laid down in the Textile Policy notified in 1985 that the measures needed for the revival of a sick unit have to be based on a detailed and objective study of the causes that led to sickness and identification of the steps necessary to revive the unit. A distinction shall have to be made between unit which are potentially viable and units which are not. As per Govt. policy take over by Govt. or nationalisation of such sick units does not provide solution to the problems of sickness and the Govt. would not as a rule intervene in such cases, However, where a unit has no expectation of becoming viable in a reasonable period of time, there may be no alternative but to allow the unit to close provided the interests of the workers are protected.

Moreover, according to the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction is entrusted with the responsibility of rehabilitating the sick textile mills.